



County Borough of Walsall.

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THE THIRD

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER,

For the Year 1917.



TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY,

3 ST. PAUL'S CLOSE,

WALSALL,

*To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the TUBERCULOSIS  
SUB-COMMITTEE, COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the <sup>Third</sup> ~~Second~~ Annual Report on the Anti-Tuberculosis work in Walsall during the year 1917.

Dr. Clark joined the colours early in May, 1917, and the arrangements for carrying on the work of the Dispensary were entrusted to Drs. Fox, Layton, Martin and myself; my colleagues being responsible for the clinics on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, and myself for the usual Thursday evening one. In addition the Tuberculosis nurse attends on Monday afternoons to see sundry cases not necessarily requiring to see a Doctor on the particular occasion in question, the view being, possibly the arrangement might somewhat relieve the stress of work.

The compilation of the statistical work has fallen upon the Secretary-dispensers (Miss Squire) to whom my heartiest thanks are herewith tendered.

The Committee I feel sure appreciate the difficult task my colleagues have in the stress and pressure of the times in carrying on their clinics, the time they have devoted to their duties has been given ungrudgingly and has most materially helped to fill the gap occasioned by Dr. Clark's absence.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HARRY SHORE,

Acting Tuberculosis Officer.



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## **PART I.**

### **Progress of the Anti-Tuberculosis Work in Walsall.**

#### **I. GENERAL SURVEY :—**

The notifications of both the Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary forms of Tuberculosis during the past year show a decline as compared with the previous year, there being notified 230 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as compared with 402 cases in 1916, and 66 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as compared with 99.

A Table showing the age and sex of the cases notified has been prepared and is shown here—Table I.

There has to be recorded a decrease in the Mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 134 deaths being recorded from this cause, as against 160 in 1916, whilst deaths from Other Forms of Tuberculosis show an increase, there being 34 deaths from this cause registered during 1917, as against 29 in 1916. Of the total Deaths recorded during 1917, 73 cases of Pulmonary and 19 of other Tuberculosis disease were notified for first time during the year, 49 cases of Pulmonary and 17 of Other Forms dying within six weeks of notification.

In reviewing the statistics, after much deliberation, I have felt that having regard to the fact that they represent the work of Dr. Clark for four months and four other doctors for eight months, to write at any length on the comparison of the work of 1917 with that of 1916 is unfair and perhaps fallacious. Under these circumstances I have contented myself with contrasting in various places the statistics from a purely arithmetical point of view.

It is only fair to point out certain facts in contrast with the previous year.

Dr. Clark foresaw to the fullest the difficult task that part time officials would have in coping with the increasing volume of work to be done and such cases as in his discretion could be transferred from dispensary to domiciliary treatment were affected by him prior to his leaving, the net result being the number of possible attendances were automatically cut down, further, my colleagues have felt some cases did not require (as was Dr. Clark's custom) being seen weekly, but have been seen bi or tri-weekly.

I concur with the observations in the 1916 report on the question of infected houses, the housing problem in this, as in other branches of Public Health, is our most pressing need.

**Table I.**

Showing age and sex of all cases notified during 1917.

Age Groups ...	0-1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Abv 65	Total
Pulmonary—Males ..	—	12	9	6	9	15	31	31	21	8	4	146
Pulmonary—Females ...	—	1	6	6	9	14	26	15	3	2	2	84
Non-Pulmonary—Males	2	18	7	5	3	—	3	—	2	—	—	40
Non-Pulmonary—Females	2	7	5	4	3	4	—	—	1	—	—	26
Total ...	4	38	27	21	24	33	60	46	27	10	6	296

## 2. INSURED CASES.

The Town Council undertake the Sanatorium Treatment of soldiers and sailors discharged from the Services suffering from Tuberculosis, and who are recommended for Sanatorium treatment by the Army Council, in conjunction with the Insurance Commissioners.

## 3. SANATORIUM ACCOMMODATION.

Beds have again been reserved by the Council at the following Institutions :—

1. Devon and Cornwall Sanatorium, 2 beds.
2. Knightwick Sanatorium, 10 beds.
3. Dean Head Sanatorium, 2 beds+ 1 extra bed (May 29/17).

The results of Sanatorium treatment during the years 1916 and 1917 are given at a later stage of this Report.

# **REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS AFTER-CARE COMMITTEE,**

**For the Year ending December 31st, 1917.**

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Owing to the small amount of funds at their disposal, the After-Committee, although constituted in April, 1916, was unable to perform any effective work until December, 1917, when a grant of £40 was received from the Allied War Aid Fund.

With this money, together with a sum subscribed by various people of the town, the Committee quickly commenced their useful and important work and before the end of the year, the following grants were made:—

10 grants of 5/- a week for 1 month and

2 grants of 5/- a week for 2 weeks to patients in need of more strengthening food.

2 grants of 5/- a week for a month towards a Country Holiday for 2 little boys.

The sum of £5 was transferred to the Extra Nourishment Fund of the Sanatorium Committee, to be expended on Tubercular persons receiving Domiciliary Treatment.

## **Examples of Cases to which Grants were made.**

### **Case Sheet No. 27.**

This plucky and persevering little man has attended the Dispensary since February 1915, and received Sanatorium Treatment in June of the same year. In 1916 he was presented with a hut, which he erected on Bentley Common, and here he has lived ever since, both winter and summer, his only companions being his dog and his violin. As his whole income consisted of 5/- State-pay, he was granted 5/- a week for one month.

### **Case Sheet No. 1028.**

A young woman who until recently was a domestic servant. Her brother was already attending the Dispensary and in January, 1917, she herself made her first appearance before Dr. Clark. She was admitted to Sanatorium in March, 1917, and after a long stay returned very much stronger, and went to live with her parents. She was granted 5/- a week for a month to enable her to keep up her strength, and is now able to help with house-work.

### **Case Sheet No. 971.**

This man, though paralysed since infancy down left side, was a very clever workman. He went to Sanatorium in October, 1917, but was compelled to return as the cold caused him great pain. He is now quite unable to work and is living with his niece and nephew. Granted 5/- a week for 1 month for milk, &c.

### **Case Sheet No. 1055.**

The father of 5 little children all under 12 years (Ada, the eldest attends the Dispensary). Has just been advised to find lighter employment and he was granted 5/- a week for 2 weeks to help matters until he is able to earn more money at his new employment.

### **Case Sheet No. 1197.**

A girl of 26 years; her Father and Sister have both recently died of Tuberculosis. She returned from Sanatorium very much improved. She was granted 5/- a week for a month so that she might get the extra nourishing food needed to maintain the improvement. This she did and is now able to continue her work of leather stitching at her own home.

Three cases of uninsured men in reduced circumstances were granted 5/- a week for a month. One of these is a married man with a small family, and his wife has to go out to work herself, while the other two are unmarried men living with their respective mothers (who are both widows).

Many letters have been received from the patients assisted and these clearly show how very grateful they all are for the grants made to them.

**PART II.**  
**The Work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary.**

**TABLE II.**

Summary of Work done during 1917.

	Adults over 14.		Children under 14	Total.
	Males.	Females		
No. of New Cases Applying ... ..	127	47	114	288
Re-Attendances ... ..	2653	1172	3277	7102
No. of Insured Persons commencing Treatment at Dispensary ... ..	—	—	—	114
No. of Insured Persons Re-attending at Dispensary	—	—	—	3056
New Cases taken on at Dispensary ...	76	26	95	197
Referred to other Institutions ... ..	14	7	6	27
New Patients Examined (Round No.) ...	—	—	—	287
Old Patients Re-examined ... ..	—	—	—	883
O.A.W. Cases transferred to Dispensary ...	—	—	—	64
Dispensary Cases transferred to O.A.W. ...	—	—	—	79
Patients who have ceased attending on their own account ... ..	32	14	56	102
Patients who have ceased attending on advice of T.O. ... ..	11	8	9	28
Special Visits to Factories and Workshops ...	—	—	—	—
HOME VISITS :—				
Tuberculosis Officer { First Visit ...	—	—	—	—
{ Re-visits ...	—	—	—	—
Nurse { First Visit ...	144	88	126	358
{ Re-visits ...	297	311	984	1592
Special Visits in connection with After Care ...	15	8	2	25
PATIENTS DISCHARGED AFTER TREATMENT.				
Apparent Cure ... ..	—	—	2	2
Disease Arrested ... ..	4	1	1	6
Markedly Improved ... ..	1	4	4	9
Improved ... ..	2	2	2	6
Worse ... ..	—	1	—	1
	7	8	9	24
CONTACTS.				
No. of Infecting Cases ... ..	11	9	8	28
No. of Contacts Examined ... ..	7	8	26	41
No. of Contacts found Tuberculous ...	6	5	13	22
No. of Contacts under Observation ...	2	3	4	9
Total Attendances at Dispensary, Old and New Cases ... ..				7387
Average Weekly Attendance ... ..				147.74

Attendances at the Dispensary.

The Dispensary is now open four afternoons and one evening per week. It has not been found possible to set aside a special session for the examination of new cases. The evening session—on Thursdays—has been as formerly well attended, the average attendance having been about 42. It is extremely gratifying to the staff to note the large number of patients discharged from active treatment, who have presented themselves at intervals of three to four months for re-examination. Our object is not to lose sight of patients who have once been under treatment, and our requests that they should come periodically to report themselves have been willingly acceded to.

In the following tables an analysis of the work is given.

TABLE III.

Sex and age constitution of all persons applying for advice or treatment, together with the results of examination as to the presence or absence of Tubercle :—

Age Groups		0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	Abv 55	Total No. all ages.
Pulmonary—Definite	m	3	4	9	7	10	29	26	5	2	95
	f	2	9	7	7	5	13	3	—	—	46
Pulmonary—Suspected	m	—	8	4	—	6	9	7	5	—	39
	f	2	6	6	1	2	5	4	—	—	26
Other Forms	m	1	6	6	2	1	—	3	—	—	19
	f	3	7	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	16
Non-Tuberculous	m	3	4	5	—	3	6	5	3	1	30
	f	1	3	5	—	3	3	2	—	—	17
Total		15	47	47	17	31	65	50	13	3	288

Attention is drawn to the large number of children who have been examined and treated at the dispensary, of the total, no less than 109 or nearly 37·84 per cent., being children of, or under school age. The Tuberculosis Dispensary is now closely linked up with the School clinics and the Infant Welfare Centres, and is thereby performing a not inconsiderable part in the Child Welfare work of the Borough.

In Table IV. Insured Persons are dealt with separately.

**TABLE IV.**

Giving sex and age constitution, with Diagnosis of all Insured Persons examined at the Dispensary :—

		15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	Above 55	Total No.
Pulmonary Definite	m f	7 6	10 5	27 9	26 —	5 —	2 —	77 20
Pulmonary Suspected	m f	— 1	6 2	9 3	7 3	5 —	— —	27 9
Other Forms	m f	1 —	1 1	— —	3 —	— —	— —	5 1
Non-Tuberculous	m f	— —	3 1	5 1	5 1	2 —	1 —	16 3
TOTALS		15	29	54	45	12	3	158

In the following table, Table V., an analysis is given of the occupations of all persons suffering from Tuberculosis who have attended the Dispensary ; and in Table VI. a list of the schools from which the children have come.

**TABLE V.**

**Analysis of Occupations of 241 Patients suffering from Tuberculosis.**

At or Under School Age	...	87	Drillers	...	...	...	2
<b>Males.</b>			Miners	...	...	...	7
Cinema Attendant	...	1	Leather Workers	...	...	...	6
Cabinet Maker	...	1	Sawyer	...	...	...	1
Filer	...	1	Stitchers	...	...	...	3
Munition Workers	...	8	Boatman	...	...	...	1
Cost Clerk	...	1	Ex-Sailor	...	..	...	1
Brass Polisher	...	1	Cashier	...	...	...	1
Ex-Soldiers	...	17	Chain Makers	...	...	...	2
Clerks	...	5	Fancy Leather Workers	...	...	...	4
Press Worker	...	1	Bridle Cutter	...	...	...	1
Fitters Assistant	...	1	Core Maker	...	...	...	1
Office Cleaner	...	1	Caretaker	...	...	...	1
Castors	...	4	Brass Caster	...	...	...	1
Domestic Servant	...	1	Shell Case Maker	...	...	...	1
Housewives	...	8	Tailor	...	...	...	1
Labourers	...	6	Chain Repairer	...	...	...	1
Tailors' Cutters	...	3	Brown Saddler	...	...	...	1

Warehouse Girl	...	...	1	Fitter	...	...	...	1
Rubber Mixer	...	...	1	Nil	...	..	...	1
French Correspondent		..	1	Carters	...	...	...	2
Metal Workers	...	...	2	Brush Finisher		...	...	1
Railway Drayman	...	...	1	Electric Welder		...	...	1
Charwomen	...	...	3	Hair Dresser		...	...	1
Furnace Workers	...	...	1	Motor Cleaner		...	...	1
Fitting Maker	...	...	1	Engineers		...	...	3
Tailors' Presser	...	...	1	Brush Maker		...	...	1
Bobber	...	...	1	Mopper		...	...	1
Works Managers	...	...	2	Carpenter		...	...	1
Curriers	...	...	2	Gardener		...	...	1
Saddle Bar Maker	...	...	1	Traveller		...	...	
Van Driver	...	...	1	Motor Driver	...	...	...	1
Baker	...	...	1					1

A number of cases were sent by the Military Medical Board whose occupations are not known.

## TABLE VI.

### A List of the Schools from which the Children have come.

Leamore	...	...	...	4	Wisemore	...	...	...	5
Centenary	...	...	...	3	Bridge	...	...	...	1
St. Matthew's		...	...	1	Miss Bettlestones		...	...	1
Bloxwich National	...	...	...	1	North Walsall		...	...	2
Elmore Green	...	...	...	2	Little Bloxwich		...	...	1
Butts	...	...	...	7	Tantarra Street		...	...	3
Bath Street	...	...	...	2	Hillary Street		...	...	1
Chuckery	...	...	...	2	St. Mary's		...	...	3
St. Patrick's	...	...	...	3	Croft Street		...	...	3
Mount	...	...	...	2	St. Peter's	...	...	...	4
Blue Lane	...	...	...	2	Blakenall	...	...	...	2
Wolverhampton Road		...	...	2	Out of Borough		...	...	2
John Street	...	...	...	2	Birchills	...	...	...	2
Palfrey	...	...	...	3	St. Paul's		...	...	1

## Home Visits.

During the year the Tuberculosis Officers paid 14 visits to patients in their own homes, whilst the Nurse paid 358 first visits, and 1,592 re-visits. A summary of the conditions found in the homes is given in the following tables (Table VII, VIII and IX). All defects, sanitary or structural, are thus discovered, and if need be, reported to the Sanitary Office, whilst advice as to isolation of the patient and in-

struction in simple health laws is given, both to the patient and his friends. In addition, contacts of advanced cases are sought out, and persuaded to come to the Dispensary for examination or referred to their own doctors.

The sleeping arrangements are in many cases found to be most unsatisfactory, and the problem of the open window one very difficult to solve. Patients and their friends take a great deal of convincing that FRESH AIR at night-time is harmless.

**TABLE VII.**

Home Conditions of 245 Patients visited during 1917:—

**Cleanliness and General Aspect of Houses.**

Dirty.	Fairly Clean.	Clean.	Good Light.	Moderate Light.	Damp.	Close.	Thro' Ventilation.	Single or back to back.	Windows open day or night.	Windows open day only.	Windows defective or not opened.
43	67	135	193	52	14	26	231	14	155	72	18

**TABLE VIII.**

**Sleeping Arrangements.**

Separate Bedroom.	Bed in Living Room.	Separate Bed but others in room.				Others in Bed.				Over-crowding.
44	2	98				101				26
		No. in Room.				1	2	3	4	
		1	2	3	4					
44	2	46	42	7	3	88	9	4	0	26

**TABLE IX.**

**Size of Houses Visited.**

One Roomed Houses	...	0
Two     ,,     ,,	...	3
Three   ,,     ,,	...	36
Four     ,,     ,,	...	98
Five     ,,     ,,	...	94
More than Five   ,,     ,,	...	14

**Sanatorium Treatment.**

Thirteen cases, 10 males and 3 females, remained in Sanatoria at the end of 1916, and during the year 69 patients were sent away, 50 males and 19 females. This number includes 20 soldiers (sent by the Army Council in conjunction with the Insurance Commissioner) and 5 uninsured persons. The results obtained are given in the following table :—

**TABLE X.**

Clinical Result on Discharge.	Male Fem.		Result at end of 1917.											
			At work.		Improved.		In Statu Quo.		Left Disrict or left off Treatment.		Worse.		Died.	
1916 Cases :—			m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
Relative Cure	3	3	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disease Arrested	2	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Much Improved	12	2	12	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Improved	11	2	7	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	1
In Statu Quo	5	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	1
1917 Cases :—														
Relative Cure	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disease Arrested	2	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Much Improved	29	9	19	4	2	1	2	2	3	—	3	1	—	1
Improved	12	2	6	1	2	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
In Statu Quo	4	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Died at San.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

At the end of 1917 there remained in Sanatoria 9 males and 4 females.

It will be seen that of the total patients who have been discharged from Sanatorium treatment, 58 per cent. were in full work at the end of the year.

Patients Discharged.

TABLE XI

Giving the diagnosis, sex and ages of Patients receiving advice or treatment and discharged during the year ending December 31st, 1917:—

Age Groups	1-5		5-10		10-15		15-20		20-25		25-35		35-45		45-55		Above 55		Totals	
Sex	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	1	1	1	4	—	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	8	12
Other Forms	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Totals ...	—	—	1	1	2	5	1	2	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	10	14

Of that number 14 were insured persons.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

				Males.	Females.	Children.
1. Apparent Cure	...	...	...	—	—	2
2. Disease Arrested	...	...	...	3	1	—
3. Markedly improved	...	...	...	1	3	3
4. Improved	...	...	...	2	2	2
5. Worse	...	...	...	—	1	—
6. Left off Attending	...	...	...	21	9	33
7. Left District	...	...	...	2	1	—

Other Forms.

				Males.	Females.	Children.
1. Disease Arrested	...	...	...	1	—	1
2. Markedly Improved	...	...	...	—	1	1
3. Left off	...	...	...	11	5	23

Types of Disease met with and discharged other than Pulmonary.

				Males.	Females.	Children.
Glands	...	...	...	—	1	2
Larynx	...	...	...	1	—	—

## Left off Treatment during 1917.

			Males.	Females.	Children.
Lungs	...	...	21	9	33
Glands	...	...	—	—	13
Hip	...	...	—	—	1
T.B. Abscess	...	...	1	—	1
Larynx	...	...	—	2	—
Elbow	...	...	1	—	—
Suspected T.B.	...	...	8	3	7
Adenitis	...	...	1	—	—
Generalized	...	...	—	—	1

6 males and 2 females had previously been discharged in 1916, and have re-attended in 1917 for observation, but have apparently now left off treatment.

19 males and 3 females made but the one attendance and did not re-attend.

In many cases the Doctors found that one attendance every 3 or 6 months was quite sufficient—it was ultimately found that many of these had automatically left off treatment.

## Domiciliary Treatment.

During the year 103 insured persons (70 males 33 females) were recommended for varying periods of time, for Domiciliary Treatment at the hands of their own medical men. On December 31st, 1917, there were 72 insured persons receiving such form of “Sanatorium” Benefit.”

## Deaths.

Of cases coming under observation at the Dispensary since the opening in 1915, 50 cases died during the year 1917, 39 (28 males and 11 females) were insured persons. The age and sex, constitution, and the types of disease are given in the following tables :—

**TABLE XII**

Ages	0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	Above 55	Total.
Males ...	—	1	2	—	3	9	14	4	1	34
Females ...	—	—	—	6	5	1	3	1	—	16

**Types of Disease.**

	Males.	Females.
Lungs ...	25	15
Lungs and Larynx.	5	—
Lungs and Glands	1	1
Lungs and Abdomen	1	—
Generalised	1	—
Cervical Adenitis	1	—

Of these cases, 12 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 1 of Other Forms died within six weeks of coming under observation, and of notification. Sputum was obtained in 37 of the cases, and was found to contain Tubercle Bacilli in 29.

**TABLE XIII**

Occupations of 50 patients dying during 1917.

Children of or under School age	3	Analytical Chemist	...	...	1
Brass Polisher	1	Dairyman	...	...	1
Housewives	5	Insurance Agent	...	...	1
Bridle Cutters	2	Tool Makers	...	...	2
Miners	3	Nickel-plater	...	...	1
Clerk	1	Fancy Leather Preparer	...	...	1
Labourers	3	Stableman	...	...	1
Basket Maker	1	Casters	...	...	3
Tin Smith	1	Munition Workers	...	...	2
Stone Mason	1	Chain Repairer	...	...	1
Filer	1	Chain Maker	...	...	1
Brass Turner	1	Saddle Bar Maker	...	...	1
Burnisher	1	Ex-Soldier	...	...	1
Bridle Stitcher	1	Charwoman	...	...	1
Wood Machinist	1	Buckle Tonguer	...	...	1
Harness Makers	2				

## **Sputum Examinations.**

DR. CLARK. From January to April.

16 positive                      ..                      40 negative.

DOCTORS IN ATTENDANCE AT AFTERNOON SESSIONS. From July to  
December.

28 positive                      ..                      85 negative.

DR. SHORE.

22 positive                      8 negative.

(Of these, 19 were Military Cases).



